

While not able to cite scientific studies, I am adding my voice to those who contend that the continual palette of violent programming on television has a desensitizing effect on society in general, and on children in particular. This applies to violent fictional drama as well as violent "reality" TV.

Children, especially, are unable to comprehend complex psychological and/or emotional issues that can be more entertaining for adults, thus they are left to view the violence depicted without discerning the underlying intent, morality, or even that they are viewing fiction (if not a reality-based program).

Proponents of these programs claim, if nothing else, their First Amendment right to unencumbered expression. But all such rights have carried with them, since their inception, an implied responsibility to society. It is long past time to fully review the effect of violent programming, and regulate this content as appropriate. This will pose a new set of challenges, but is necessary for the greater good, to move society away from recreating in life what is carelessly and casually depicted on the television screen.